

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1853.

KOSZTA AND SLAVERY.

Our daily notice of the doings of Congress will have apprized our readers of the Debate which, very unexpectedly to most people, we presume, sprung up in the House of Representatives on Tuesday on the subject of negro slavery—a debate which can only produce vexation and mischief, and rouse a spirit which we had hoped was exercised for a long time to come. This debate arose on a question equally foreign to the legislative duties of Congress, but which has, perhaps with retributive justice, risen up to plague our public councils—we mean the political rights of Koszta, the Hungarian. We introduce the subject here only to say, that, much as we regret the discussion of such worse than bootless topics in the Halls of Congress, yet, as it has arisen, we think it our duty to give at least a speech on each side, and therefore insert to-day the opening speeches of Mr. GERRITT SMITH and Mr. PRESTON, and also that of Mr. WALSH.

SENATORIAL STATISTICS.

Recurring to the subject of legislative experience and its advantages, we may remark that there are at present in the Senate of the United States but two members who have served ten years consecutively, to wit, Mr. ARCHISON, of Missouri, (now President pro tempore), and Mr. PEARCE, of Maryland. Their present terms will expire on the 3d of March, 1855.

Mr. BENTON, of Missouri, served from the 2d October, 1820, to the 3d March, 1851, a period of more than thirty years. He is now, for the first time, a member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. KING, of Alabama, late Vice President, was a member of the Senate from 28th October, 1819, until 9th of April, 1844, when he resigned to accept the mission to France tendered him by President TYLER. He again entered the Senate on the 13th July, 1848, and served until January 1853, when he was compelled to resign in consequence of ill health. Mr. King had previously been a member of the House of Representatives from North Carolina, (his native State), and served from December, 1811, until 4th April, 1816, when he was appointed Secretary of Legation to Naples and Russia, with Mr. William Pinkney as Minister Plenipotentiary.

Mr. MAJOR, of North Carolina, served from 5th December, 1815, to May 26th, 1828, when he resigned—a service of thirteen years.

Mr. MANUM, of North Carolina, served more than seventeen years, to wit, from 4th March, 1831, to 4th July, 1850, when he resigned; and from December, 1840, to 3d March, 1853. Mr. Manum was several times President of the Senate pro tempore.

Mr. HILLHOUSE, of Connecticut, served from May, 1796, to May, 1810—a period of fourteen years.

Mr. JOHN M. CLAYTON, of Delaware, served from 4th March, 1829, to 1837, when he resigned; and from 4th March, 1845, to 5th March, 1849, when he resigned to become Secretary of State under President TYLER. He is again in service as Senator for six years from 4th March, 1853.

Mr. GALLIARD, of South Carolina, served from 9th December, 1804, to 20th February, 1829, when he died—a period of nearly twenty-two years. He was frequently President pro tempore of the Senate.

Mr. CALHOUN, of South Carolina, served from 12th December, 1822, (having resigned the Vice Presidency), to 1842, when he resigned. He was appointed Secretary of State by President TYLER on the 9th March, 1844, and served in that capacity until 4th March, 1845. He again entered the Senate on the 26th December, 1845, and served until the 31st March, 1850, when he died. His whole Senatorial term was more than fourteen years. His previous service in the House of Representatives was from December, 1811, until 4th March, 1817, when he was appointed Secretary of War by Mr. MONROE.

Mr. PRESTON, of South Carolina, served from December, 1833, to December, 1842, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. McDUFFIE on the 3d January, 1844, who also resigned in December, 1846.

Mr. BUTLER, of South Carolina, served from 21st December, 1846, and is now filling his second term, which will expire on the 3d March, 1855.

Mr. BERRIES, of Georgia, served from 4th March, 1825, to 4th March, 1829, when he was appointed Attorney General by President JACKSON. He again entered the Senate on the 4th March, 1841, and served until 3d March, 1853—a period of sixteen years.

Mr. CLAY, of Kentucky, served from 19th November, 1806, to 3d March, 1807; from 4th January, 1810, to 3d March, 1811; and from 4th March, 1831, to 31st March, 1842, when he resigned. He again entered the Senate on the 3d December, 1849, and served to 29th of June, 1852, when he died. His service in the House of Representatives was from December, 1811, to January 19th, 1814, when he was appointed a Commissioner to Ghent. He again entered the House in December, 1815, and served until 3d March, 1821; and, after an interval of two years, served from December, 1823, to 4th March, 1825, when he was appointed Secretary of State by President ADAMS.

Mr. CRITTENDEN, of Kentucky, served from 4th March, 1817, to 10th December, 1819, when he resigned; and from 4th March, 1835, to 4th March, 1841, when he accepted the office of Attorney General under President HARRISON. He again entered the Senate on the 25th February, 1842, and served until 4th March, 1849, when he declined further service to become Governor of Kentucky.

Mr. ANDERSON, of Tennessee, served from 26th September, 1797, to 3d March, 1815. He was afterwards for many years Second Comptroller of the Treasury.

Mr. WHITE, of Tennessee, served from 28th October, 1825, to 13th January, 1840, when he resigned.

Mr. ROGUES, of Ohio, served from 4th March, 1815, to 3d March, 1838—eighteen years—three full terms.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Kentucky, served from 10th December, 1819, to 3d March, 1829. He was Vice President from 4th March, 1837, to 3d March, 1840.

Mr. NOBLE, of Indiana, served from 8th November, 1816, to 20th February, 1831, when he died—a period of nearly fifteen years.

Mr. THOMAS, of Illinois, served from 7th October, 1818, to 3d March, 1829—nearly eleven years.

Mr. GILES, of Virginia, served from 11th August, 1804, to 3d March, 1815, when he resigned. He was also Governor of Virginia for three years.

Mr. BARBOUR, of Virginia, served from 20th January, 1815, to 7th March, 1825, when he resigned to become Secretary of War.

Mr. L. W. TAZEWELL, of Virginia, served from 7th December, 1824, to 10th July, 1832, when he resigned. He was afterwards Governor of Virginia, and resigned that position also.

Mr. CARR, of Michigan, served from 4th March, 1845, to June, 1849, when he resigned to accept the candidacy for President of the United States. He again entered the Senate on the 3d March, 1849, and was re-elected to serve from 4th March, 1851, to 3d March, 1857.

This list might be enlarged, but enough is given to show that even with brilliant talents it requires long service to give weight and influence in parliamentary labors, and secure to the ablest statesman a national reputation. There have been few periods when experience and ability, and the influence which they give, were more needed in the National Legislature than at present.

ELECTION BY DISTRICTS.

The choice of Presidential Electors by districts has occupied the attention of various public men for many years. In referring to the subject the other day it was not our purpose to give the credit of the invention to any person, nor to raise the slightest objection to the proposition pending in Congress. On the contrary, we are, as things are now managed, inclined to favor the plan of dispensing with the machinery of Electors. It was as mere chronicles of passing and past events that we called up the movement of Senator BENTON, that being the most prominent in our memory.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, at the session of 1816-17, Mr. PICKENS, of North Carolina, submitted a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States, so as to direct that the elections of Representatives in Congress and Electors of President and Vice President should be made uniformly by districts throughout the United States. This proposition was sustained by Mr. HUGEN, of South Carolina, in a very forcible speech. By this mode he contended that the East, the West, the North, and the South would each have its proportionate influence in the election; and no one or two geographical portions or divisions of the Union, by combination, intrigue, or otherwise, would be enabled to overwhelm the others. The Chief Magistrate would consequently be, as intended, *emphatically the choice of the whole people and of all the different interests throughout the Union*—elected by the people in conformity to the ratio established upon the federal and popular principles engrafted on the Constitution. What more, said Mr. HUGEN, could be asked for or wished for? Mr. McDUFFIE, at a subsequent period, pressed a similar proposition, but without success. Yet South Carolina to this day retains in the hands of her Legislature the choice of Electors of President and Vice President.

DENUNCIATION OF FREEBOOTERS.

We observe that in every quarter of the country the public journals which place a just estimate upon the national honor speak out in indignant denunciation of the freebooters of every description who seem bent upon involving the country in trouble and disgrace in order to gratify their own mischievous propensities. To the several samples of this truly patriotic spirit which we have already placed before our readers we add the following brief paragraph from the Philadelphia Ledger of Saturday, elicited by a late telegraphic report (unfounded, we trust) that there is being organized at New Orleans another unlawful expedition against the Island of Cuba:

"We know not how true this statement may be, but, judging from former experience, it is quite probable that there are scoundrels enough still left in the United States who are ready for any act of plunder and outrage. But it is quite time for the people, the real people of the United States—the farmers and planters, the manufacturers and mechanics, the legitimate merchants—to say that they will have no more of this rapacious plundering, murdering, bandit, piratical 'manifest destiny.' It is time for them to say that as the nation—or if they are not the nation who are—they have interests to protect and a character to lose, and that they will not leave the one to ruin and the other to disgrace for the sake of a few thieves and out-throats and other gallow-birds in this country or any other. There are many who believe that the Administration sympathizes with these schemes of filibustering. It is time that they were disabused of this notion, and nothing will do it so well as prompt and vigorous efforts on the part of the Government to punish all persons found engaged in such unlawful undertakings, whether against Spain, or Mexico, or any other nation."

RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, Dec. 15. In a recent letter I adverted to the fact that negotiations, to some extent, in reference to an important question pending between the United States and Mexico, had been recently commenced here between the Mexican Minister and the Secretary of State. SANTA ANNA took measures some months ago to obtain through the Governors of the frontier States evidences in support of Mexican reclamations upon the Government of the United States for Indian depredations, under the 11th article of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Later, as I learn, a proposition has been made to our Government by President SANTA ANNA, through Gen. ALMONTE, for the adjustment of these claims.

The character of this proposition is not known. There is scarcely a doubt, however, that the United States Government will ultimately recognize its obligations to indemnify Mexico for these losses. It was the 11th article of the treaty alone in which Mexico found some compensation for her losses by the war and her sacrifice of territory by the peace. Our Government cannot evade the obligation, and the longer we may postpone a compliance with it the greater will become its burden. It is supposed that our Government is willing to pay Mexico a certain sum of money, in lieu of a specific compliance with the obligations of the 11th article, for the payment of claims that may arise hereafter.

A proposition in the form of a resolution was offered in the Senate, in Executive session, in March last, looking to the early exoneration of the United States from the burden of the 11th article of the treaty in future. What action was had thereon is not known; but could the proposition be carried out, it would not only vindicate our public faith, but save in the end a large amount of money to the public exchequer.

DAMAGES FOR INJURIES.—In the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, in the case of William Hilliard versus Josiah Richardson, the jury returned a verdict for plaintiff, assessing damages at \$7,700. The plaintiff was thrown from his buggy, his horse having been frightened at a pile of boards placed opposite to a building of defendant which was undergoing repairs. This should be a warning to owners of buildings, who are oftentimes very careless about such obstructions in the streets.

The engine of the calorific ship *Erierson* is said to be nearly completed, and a trial trip is to be made this week. The inventor and municipal owners are confident of her success, and intend to run her between New York and Havre, as an independent steamer, to replace temporarily the *Humboldt*, which was wrecked at Halifax.

The proposition to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 towards a monument to Mr. CALHOUN has been laid on the table in the South Carolina House of Representatives by a vote of 60 to 49. It was objected that such a distinction in favor of Mr. Calhoun would be invidious, since Sumpter, Marion, and other distinguished Carolinians had not been equally honored.

HISTORY OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

The editors of the Springfield Republican propose to give a new feature to their paper for the year 1854, by the publication, in weekly numbers of four to six columns each, of a carefully-prepared, authentic, and original History of Western Massachusetts, from the settlement of the colony, in four divisions. Among the subjects embraced will be the rise, progress, and position of agriculture and agricultural societies, manufactures, education, and literary institutions. There must be thousands in every part of the Union, natives of Massachusetts, who will hail this work with pleasure.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS DELTA OF DECEMBER 12.

The United States mail steamship *Texas* arrived last evening from Vera Cruz, which place she left on the 8th instant. From the files of papers received by the *Texas* we translate the following items of news:

A plan was proclaimed in the city of Guadalajara, on the 17th ultimo, to force President Santa Anna to accept the title of Captain General of the Republic, a rank created while Lombardini was Provisional President, during the interval which transpired after the abdication of Arista, and previous to the election of Santa Anna. The plan has been seconded by many of the States and cities of Mexico, foremost among which we notice the cities of Mexico, Vera Cruz, Puebla, and Orizaba. The latter place seconded the plan, and desires that the President shall assume the title and proclaim himself Perpetual Dictator of the Republic. The city of Toluca adheres to the plan, but desires the President to assume the title of His Highness, (Alteza.) Puebla proposes that he be called Elector of Mexico and Grand Admiral, Marshal-General of the Armies of Mexico, with the title of His Most Serene Highness.

Our correspondent, who has received later advice at Vera Cruz than our files contain, informs us that Santa Anna has been declared Dictator for the term of ten years.

The plan of Guadalajara was received with the wildest demonstrations of joy in the city of Mexico by a large majority of the people. A slight show of opposition was made by a few, but the troops were immediately ordered out by the Governor of the District, and their murmurs of discontent were silenced.

The Diario Oficial, in speaking of the *Acapulco* mail route between New Orleans and San Francisco, states that recently the mail was conveyed by this route from New Orleans to San Francisco in twelve days and a half. We think this must be an error, as nineteen days and a half is the quickest time we have heard of between this city and San Francisco.

A terrible accident occurred a short distance from Vera Cruz. Several wagon loads of gunpowder which were being conveyed to the city of Mexico were ignited by some means, and exploded, killing fourteen men.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS DELTA OF DECEMBER 12.

Our files of Mexican papers received yesterday throw additional light on the recent movement terminating in the assumption by President SANTA ANNA of the title of "Captain General." It is believed that the office confers supreme dictatorial powers, though the Mexican press never uses the word "Dictator" in connection with this new dignity. It may be remembered that the plan of Jalisco, as the revolution was termed, which placed SANTA ANNA at the head of the Government, was modified by a project first started at Guanajuato, and immediately after sanctioned by the authorities of the large and important city of Guadalajara. This modification consisted of three essential points:

1st. That the Presidential term should be continued so long as SANTA ANNA should hold that the maintenance of public order required it. 2d. That provision should be made for the peaceable transfer of the Presidential authority, in case of the unexpected death or disability of the present incumbent. And, 3d. That the title of Captain General of the Republic should be created and vested in the person of the President.

This change in the plan of Jalisco, having been first accepted by Guadalajara, is styled by the Mexican journals the "Act of Guadalajara." It was solemnly ratified in that city on the 17th ultimo, in the shape of a preamble followed by an act. The preamble states substantially that the enemies of the Republic are continually engaged in plots and designs against its integrity; that their pretence of the non-fulfilment of the plan of Jalisco is false and hypocritical; that their evident intention is to oppose and embarrass the Government, reproducing the evils of previous administrations; that the period assigned for the term of office of the existing Government is too short to enable it to perfect all the reforms and improvements contemplated; that during the brief administration of affairs under the present head immense progress has been made in re-establishing public order, tranquillity, and strength; that the constant threats uttered by the adventurers of the United States require a firm and powerful administration; and that all the respectable and useful classes of the Mexican people hold in detestation any dismemberment and division of the public authority.

For these reasons seventy-one citizens, at the head of which we find the name of JOSE MARIA DE ORTEGA, Governor and Commandant General of the department of Jalisco, drew up the subjoined articles and submitted them to the public authorities of the districts and departments of Mexico:

"1st. It is declared that the term of one year designated by the Convention of the 6th February last, being insufficient for the complete administration of every branch of the national administration, this term is prolonged as long as may be necessary in the judgment of his excellency the President of the Republic, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

"2d. With this object his excellency the President is invested with the entire complement of powers which he has hitherto exercised.

"3d. With a view of providing for the death or any moral or physical disability of the illustrious chief of the nation, he is empowered to designate his successor, under a sealed envelope, to be deposited in the bureau of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the customary formalities and guarantees.

"4th. Considering the numerous and distinguished merits and eminent services of his excellency the President, he is hereby proclaimed, notwithstanding his previous opposition to the measure, invested with the military authority, designed for him alone, of CAPTAIN GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC, together with the honors and dignities attached to this title, in conformity to the decree of the 11th April last, and with the modifications therein expressed.

"5th. A copy of the present manifesto shall be presented to the President of the Republic by a special commission, whose duty it shall be to congratulate him on the spontaneous choice made by the people, and to be amount paid for relief of brothers..... 351,437 Amount paid for relief of widowed families..... 55,314 Amount paid for the education of orphans..... 11,890 Amount paid for burying dead..... 70,123 Total amount of relief..... 522,248

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Legislature of South Carolina adjourned *sine die* on Tuesday evening last.

A quarter of a million of dollars were appropriated for the continued construction of the new capital, which sum it is said will be sufficiently to carry on the undertaking vigorously and successfully.

The Columbia and Hamburg Railroad Company was chartered. Further aid, in the form of subscription to its stock, was refused to the Blue Ridge railroad.

No act was passed providing for the State a more efficient common school system.

The obnoxious laws relating to colored seamen were not modified, as was recommended by the Governor, and confidently expected.

The Bank of Charleston was rechartered without a reduction of its capital, which continues at \$3,000,000, whilst the capital of other banks in the State is limited to one-third of this amount.

The question of allowing the people of the State to vote for Electors of President of the United States, which was again under consideration by the Legislature, was again rejected.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

THE ship *Hermann*, which left Southampton on the afternoon of the 7th instant, brings to New York four days' later intelligence, of which we have the following telegraphic summary:

The Four Powers have resumed joint action in favor of peace. They have recognized by a formal protocol the importance of preserving the present territorial arrangement of Europe. They propose a conference, open to representatives from Russia and Turkey.

Advices from Bucharest are to the 6th, and from Kalafat to the 3d instant. There is nothing new. ANTI PACHA had entered Georgia. The port of Odessa was frozen up.

Two companies of Wallachia militia had deserted to OSMAN PACHA. The small Turkish steamer *Mejidiah* was taken by a Russian frigate, and afterwards recaptured by a Turkish frigate.

The Turkish Government refuses to submit to a three months' armistice proposed by England, in consequence of which the English Minister had a long audience with the Sultan, which was followed by an extraordinary meeting of the Divan.

At an entertainment of the officers of the allied fleets on board the Turkish flag ship, Lord STRATFORD made a speech connecting the promised aid of Great Britain with a strong recommendation of peace. The Sultan replied that he desired peace, but not if it was incompatible with the sovereign rights and honor of Turkey.

More Turkish victories are reported in Asia. The Russians, after three bloody engagements, had been driven back to the Fortress of Saffa, and Akistan had been taken by assault by Selim Pacha.

The Russians had attacked the entrenched camp at Bayazet, but were beaten back. They also failed in their last attempt to retake the fort of St. Nicholas. They were also defeated near Araska, in an engagement of some magnitude on the 4th ultimo, leaving several dead and wounded on the field. The Turks had also taken Akhalakh in Georgia.

The Russians were so hard pressed in Asia that sixteen thousand troops had been sent to their relief. There were no movements of importance on the Danube. The Turks were fortifying Kalafat.

FURTHER FROM EUROPE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23d.—The steamer *Hermann*, which left Southampton on the 7th, arrived this morning. She brings some additional items not contained in the telegraphic abstract of the *America's* news, (to the 10th.)

LOUIS NARONEN charges the King of Belgium with being concerned in the schemes which led to the fusion of the two Houses. He threatens to march an army into Belgium upon the first political movement of the so-called ally. The recent rapid and unexpected movements of the Duke of Brabant are supposed to refer to this event. The Cabinet of Brussels was greatly alarmed. The Belgian Government has officially declared that it will not sanction privateering or grant letters of marque.

Baron BAWER had informed the Porte that Austria will support the neutrality of Servia.

The Sultan has replied that he is determined to compel the Prince of Servia to renounce neutrality, and that orders to that effect have been issued.

Austria is making active and open preparations to interfere in the affairs of Servia.

Portugal was tranquil.

The packet ship *E. Z.*, which left Liverpool November 13th for New York, put back, having encountered a terrible gale on the 29th, which swept her decks and washed overboard thirteen passengers and five of the crew.

The official returns of the votes recently given on the proposition to amend the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts have just been canvassed, with the following result:

Propositions.	Yea.	Nay.	Negative majority.
Frame of Government.....	62,921	97,777	8,056
Habeas Corpus.....	62,509	96,524	2,781
Justice of Peace.....	61,403	95,284	3,584
Claims against the State.....	62,605	96,596	3,158
Imprisonment for debt.....	63,715	96,549	2,298
Against Sectarian Schools.....	64,809	95,540	551
No Corporations by special acts.....	62,446	96,537	2,364
No Bachelors by special acts.....	63,113	96,594	5,832

From the above it appears that all the propositions submitted were rejected by the People.

CESSION OF WEST FLORIDA.—The following preamble and resolution were adopted on Wednesday week by the House of Representatives of Alabama:

Whereas it is believed that the inhabitants of that portion of the State of Florida residing west of the Chattahoochee (Apalachicola) river, and known as "West Florida," are anxious to have said territory attached to the State of Alabama; and whereas it is believed that the State of Florida will consent to the cession of said territory to this State; and whereas it is highly important to the State of Alabama to acquire the same: Be it therefore

Resolved, That the Committee on Federal Relations be instructed to take the subject under consideration, and to take such steps, by bill or otherwise, as may be most advisable and conducive to attain the end above contemplated.

The slip of territory referred to is about one hundred and sixty miles in length by fifty or sixty miles in breadth, lying upon the Gulf of Mexico, the shore of which, in the event of the cession being made, would become the southern boundary of Alabama.

STATISTICS OF ODD-FELLOWS.—The Annual Reports of the various Lodges made to the Grand Lodge of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1853, show the operations of the Odd-Fellows during that year, as follows:

Number of Lodges.....	2,041
Number of Encampments.....	541
Number of Members.....	214,956
Number of brothers relieved.....	22,938
Number of widowed families relieved.....	2,375
Number of brothers buried.....	1,583
Revenue of Lodges and Encampments.....	\$1,304,845
Amount paid for relief of brothers.....	351,437
Amount paid for relief of widowed families.....	55,314
Amount paid for the education of orphans.....	11,890
Amount paid for burying dead.....	70,123
Total amount of relief.....	522,248

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A FILLIBUSTER AT HAVANA.—Among the passengers on board the steamer *Crescent*, which stopped at Havana, as usual, on her late trip from New Orleans, was the fillibuster Col. O'HARA. A price was set on his head after the capture of Lopez, and against him there is a standing sentence of death.

The Great Western Railroad from the Niagara river to London is now in operation. It will be recollected that it was opened to Hamilton, fifty miles, a few weeks since. On the 19th instant the first train of cars passed over the road from Hamilton to London, distance eighty-four miles. The train was four hours in performing the trip, having to make frequent stoppages to receive the congratulations of the assembled crowd.

FROM TEXAS.

At the latest accounts from Texas (being from Galveston to the 18th instant) the Legislature was still in session. A bill has passed to a third reading in the Senate to provide for the construction of the Mississippi and Pacific Railroad. It places the initial point on the east, at a point north of Fulton, (Ark.) and appropriates twenty sections of land for every mile of road. The State retains a supervisory control of the work when constructed, and the contrary acts are all to be made by the Governor. The contracting company is required to deposit \$300,000 as a guaranty for its compliance with its contract. As soon as the track is selected the company is required to survey the public lands on each side of the same for thirty miles, and these lands are reserved from other location and divided in alternate sections between the company and the State. All the vacant lands of the State east of the 103d parallel of western longitude, and embraced between the parallels of latitude 31° and 33° north, and all of the vacant and unappropriated land west of the State west of the 103d degree of longitude, and embraced between the parallels of latitude 30° 30' and 32° north are held in reserve for the purpose of promoting the objects of the act.

A vote taken in the Senate on a motion involving the general question whether the State will give lands to railroad companies in aid of the construction of the roads showed that there were but three negatives in the whole body. It is thought the preponderance in the House is quite decided.

The work has commenced on the Galveston, Houston, and Henderson Railroad. The first spadeful of earth was thrown up with much ceremony, at Virginia Point, on Galveston Bay, several weeks ago. This road is designed to reach Henderson, in Texas, and from that point to connect with Fulton, (Ark.) and the northern route to the Mississippi; and from the same point to connect with Austin and El Paso. The project is a large one, and exhibits another proof of the lively interest which is felt everywhere for railroad connections with the trunk railroad which is to form the great avenue of travel between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

The report of JAMES B. SHAW, the Comptroller of the State, has been laid before the Legislature. From October 31st, 1851, to October 23d, 1852, the receipts of the State, from \$5,701,205, of which sum \$5,000,000 were received from the Government of the United States in five per cent. bonds, the expenditures for the same period amounted to \$1,735,905; leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$3,965,301.94. The total amount of School Fund now in the Treasury is \$82,193.23.

The increase in value of the taxable property within the State for the last eight years, but more especially for the past three years, affords unmistakable evidence of the prosperity and growth of the country. In 1846 the aggregate taxable property of the State amounted to \$34,391,175; in 1850, \$51,814,015, and in 1852, \$59,155,114—an increase